

WHA 77 Item 11.1 Universal Health Coverage Wed 29/5

Honorable Chair, Director-General, Excellences and colleagues,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the EU statement. Universal Health Coverage is a fundamental element for accessing health from a Human Rights perspective.

The topic of Universal Health Coverage is persistently present at the highest political and expert level in Bulgaria. Ensuring a healthy life and strengthening the well-being of the population is one of the main goals in the management of the system, reflected in the national strategies, concepts, programs, and plans, which are implemented with the assistance and support of the WHO.

Today, we gather with a shared purpose, a shared vision that transcends borders and differences. Today, we unite in the pursuit of a fundamental human right - Universal Health Coverage.

Health is not a privilege reserved for the fortunate few - it is a basic human right that should be accessible to all, regardless of their socioeconomic status, geographic location, or any other arbitrary factor. The harsh reality is that millions of people around the world lack access to essential healthcare services. They face barriers that prevent them from receiving the care they need, often leading to unnecessary suffering and loss of life.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage is not a simple task. It requires bold leadership, innovative thinking, and sustained investment.

Access to the healthcare system for all Bulgarian citizens is regulated by the law, without discrimination based on any criteria. In Bulgaria, the Primary Health Care system has been established a long time ago. It includes also the general practitioners who work in individual or group practices. Moreover, the patients in Bulgaria have access to Specialised Outpatient Health Care, Emergency Medical Care (including EMT aviation care) and inpatient care. Many treatment activities for the uninsured patients are being paid for by the state budget.

All we are part of a global community, bound together by our shared commitment to building a better world. Together, we can make Universal Health Coverage a reality for all by

upholding the principles of equity, solidarity, and compassion, and leaving no one behind on the journey towards a healthier and more equitable world.

Concerning the resolution to be adopted under this agenda item, Bulgaria fully aligns with the EU Explanation of position to be delivered on the use of “those” in “those in vulnerable situation”, which Bulgaria as the EU MS, following the rights-based person-centered approach, understands likewise to refer solely to “persons”.

Thank you!